

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WITH THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 201 W. LOCUST STREET
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003**

A. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Special City Council meeting of March 20, 2003, was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members – Beckman, Hansen, Land, and Mayor Hitchcock

Absent: Council Members – Mayor Pro Tempore Howard*

Present: Library Board of Trustees – Fore, Lavond, Paulsen, and Villarreal

Absent: Library Board of Trustees – Thomas Goad, Sr.

Also Present: City Manager Flynn, City Attorney Hays, and City Clerk Blackston

*Note: Absent due to attendance at the San Joaquin Council of Governments One Voice event in Washington, D.C.

B. TOPIC(S)

Andrea Woodruff, Supervising Librarian, stated that the Lodi Public Library catalog is not accessible on the internet. She reported that staff receives 100 requests a week from patrons requesting this service for the purpose of searching, reserving, and renewing books, as well as reviewing their account online, and registering for programs offered by the library. Ms. Woodruff stated that this is the number one need expressed by patrons of all ages. The library's current catalog software is no longer being developed, the hardware is not supported, and they have sustained two crashes of their computer system during the last two months. Ms. Woodruff read the following statement from Jerry Moore of the Information Systems Division, "Your book check out system is one disk crash away from complete, irreversible failure." Ms. Woodruff reported that there are currently only seven other libraries in California that do not have an internet accessible catalog and three of them are now in the process of acquiring a system. She emphasized that if the current computer system failed, the library could not function. She reported that 2,127 Lodi residents use Stockton's online integrated library system and 377 use Sacramento's.

With the aid of an overhead projector, Christine Lavond, Library Board Trustee, demonstrated Stockton and Sacramento's online integrated library systems.

Ms. Woodruff reported that 2001 statistics indicated that 73% of Lodi residents have a computer and 64.2% have internet access. The current in-person usage of the Lodi Library averages 100 per hour, 25,500 per month, and 306,000 per year. She pointed out that an internet accessible library computer system would help to attain the City Council's major goal/objective to ensure an efficient and productive City organization through: 1) enhancing access to information through technology, and 2) improving customer service.

Ms. Woodruff outlined the following alternatives:

1. Partnering with Stockton-San Joaquin County Library – \$125,000 for the first year; technical staff would be provided by the Stockton Library; with an annual \$35,000 maintenance fee (\$20,000 of which is currently in the Lodi Library's operating budget);
2. Stand alone system – estimated at \$225,000 in addition to the need to hire technical staff;
3. Replace existing hardware and migrate data to a new system – \$25,000 in addition to labor costs for an outside technical assistant to migrate the data.

Council Member Land recalled that alternative one was previously considered by Council (January 2, 2003) and failed by a vote of 2-3.

City Manager Flynn noted that in addition to the library's request for an integrated library system, which will be considered again in the 2003-05 budget, they are requesting a \$125,000 shift of medical costs to the City's general fund. He stated that the library's budget is inherently problematic due to its funding which is derived from 2% of the annual property tax. He believed that the long term needs of the library should be addressed.

Darla Gunning, President of the 49-99 Library Cooperative, stated that Lodi is the only city within the six counties that they serve without an internet accessible library computer system. Ms. Gunning reported that grant funding may be available for connectivity needs, i.e. hardware and broadband access, but not for software.

Nancy Martinez, Library Services Director, estimated that of the \$125,000 needed to partner with the Stockton-San Joaquin County Library's integrated library system, \$5,000 to \$10,000 is for hardware.

Mr. Flynn reported that there is \$600,000 in the Lodi Library trust fund, and indicated that due to the City's budget constraints, the trust fund should be considered as a funding source for the integrated library system.

Ms. Lavond replied that the trust fund is generally not used for operational purposes.

Ms. Gunning warned that data may be lost if the library's system crashes and it could take four to six months to get up and running again on a new system.

Steve Mann, Information Systems Division Manager, cautioned that if alternative three were attempted, the old software may not run on a new server. He indicated that the data migration might be accomplished using current staff; however, it would not be a simple or quick process.

Council Member Hansen suggested a 50/50 cost split between the library's trust fund and the City's general fund for alternative one (i.e. partnering with the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library).

In reply to Mayor Hitchcock, Mr. Mann explained that the library's software is very complex and could not be designed in-house.

Ms. Gunning interjected that most large libraries migrate to new computer systems every three to five years.

Mr. Flynn explained that a motion to reconsider an item must be made by a Council Member who voted on the prevailing side; otherwise, if this request was approved in the 2003-05 budget it would likely not be implemented until late summer or fall.

Addressing the Board, Mayor Hitchcock asked them to inform the Council in the future, whether they would be willing to fund the integrated library system with a 50/50 cost split as Council Member Hansen had suggested.

Ms. Martinez introduced the following individuals who were also in attendance: Janet Berreth, President, Friends of the Lodi Public Library; JoAnne Rantz, Lodi Public Library Foundation; Stephanie Allen, Literacy Project Coordinator; Sandy Smith, Reference Librarian; Behjat Kerdegari, Reference Librarian; and Jim Tinder, Children's Librarian.

C. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

Continued March 20, 2003

D. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Blackston
City Clerk